

A. Marked-Up Version Per 37 CFR 1.121(c)

4. (Twice Amended) A [The] bone graft harvesting drill [of claim 1], comprising:
a flexible tubular member; and
a [hollow] cylindrical drill bit mounted to a distal end of the flexible tubular member, wherein the drill bit has a plurality of teeth having [inner and] outer surfaces[, wherein the outer surfaces of the teeth] tapering inwardly towards their distal ends[, and wherein the inner surfaces of the teeth are aligned with the outer surface of the hollow cylindrical drill bit].

5. (Twice Amended) The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 4, wherein said cylindrical drill bit includes a hollow inner bore, and further comprising:

a tissue removing insert received within the hollow inner bore[s] of the [flexible tubular member and the] drill bit[, the tissue removing insert being adapted to tear away tissues disposed within the inner bore of the drill bit].

6. (Once Amended) The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 5, wherein the tissue removing insert is adapted to be slidably positioned within the inner bore[s] of the [flexible tubular member and the] drill bit.

7. (Twice Amended) The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 4, wherein the drill bit comprises[:] an inner bore, and at least one projection facing inwardly into the inner bore of the drill bit[, the projection being adapted to] and dimensioned to tear away tissues disposed within the inner bore of the drill bit.

8. (Once Amended) The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 7, wherein[,] the at least one projection comprises a plurality of inwardly facing projections disposed equidistantly around the circumference of the drill bit.

9. (Once Amended) The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 7, wherein[,] the at least one projection is formed from a C-shaped or L-shaped cut passing through the wall of the drill bit.

10. (Once Amended) The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 7, wherein[,] the at least one projection comprises a blade spanning across the inner bore of the drill bit

11. (Allowed) A method of harvesting bone graft material, comprising:
inserting a distal end of a hollow cylindrical drill into a patient's ilium, the distal end of a hollow cylindrical drill comprising a flexible tubular member, with a hollow cylindrical drill bit mounted to the distal end of the flexible tubular member; and
rotating or oscillating the flexible tubular member about a longitudinal axis extending therethrough; and,
advancing the hollow cylindrical drill such that cut away tissue is deposited in the inner bore of the hollow cylindrical drill

12. (Allowed) The method of claim 11, wherein the hollow cylindrical drill is advanced such that the distal end of the cylindrical drill bit deflects off an inner boundary of the outer surface of the ilium, thereby cutting the cancellous bone while avoiding cutting cortical bone.

13. (Allowed) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
slidably inserting a tissue removal insert into the inner bores of the flexible tubular member and cylindrical drill bit;
anchoring the tissue removal insert into a mass of tissue protruding into the bore of the cylindrical drill bit;
tearing away the mass of tissue by rotating the tissue removal insert; and
removing the mass of tissue from within the bore of the cylindrical drill bit by slidably removing the tissue removal insert from the inner bore of the cylindrical drill bit.

14. (Allowed) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

tearing away a mass of tissue protruding into the bore of the cylindrical drill bit with a protrusion which faces inwardly from an inner wall of the cylindrical drill bit into the bore of the cylindrical drill bit.

15. (Allowed) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

tearing away a mass of tissue protruding into the bore of the cylindrical drill bit with a blade spanning across the bore of the drill bit

16. (Allowed) The method of claim 11, wherein the hollow cylindrical drill is inserted in a percutaneous cannulated approach.

18. (Allowed) A method of drilling bone, comprising:

providing a generally cylindrical drill bit having a beveled outer distal periphery;
inserting said generally cylindrical drill bit through an aperture formed in a patient's cortical bone; and

rotating said generally cylindrical drill bit such that, when advanced through said aperture, said drill bit deflects off an inner wall of said cortical bone and thereby avoids penetrating said cortical bone other than through said aperture.

B. Clean Version Per 37 CFR 1.121(c)

1. A bone graft harvesting drill, comprising:
a flexible tubular member; and
a cylindrical drill bit mounted to a distal end of the flexible tubular member,
wherein the drill bit has a plurality of teeth having outer surfaces tapering inwardly towards their
distal ends.

2. The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 1, wherein said cylindrical drill bit
includes a hollow inner bore, and further comprising:
a tissue removing insert received within the hollow inner bore of the drill bit.

3. The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 2, wherein the tissue removing insert is
adapted to be slidably positioned within the inner bore of the drill bit.

4. The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 4, wherein the drill bit comprises an inner
bore, and at least one projection facing inwardly into the inner bore of the drill bit and
dimensioned to tear away tissues disposed within the inner bore of the drill bit.

5. The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 4, wherein the at least one projection
comprises a plurality of inwardly facing projections disposed equidistantly around the
circumference of the drill bit.

6. The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 4, wherein the at least one projection is
formed from a C-shaped or L-shaped cut passing through the wall of the drill bit.

7. The bone graft harvesting drill of claim 4, wherein the at least one projection
comprises a blade spanning across the inner bore of the drill bit.

8. A method of harvesting bone graft material, comprising:

inserting a distal end of a hollow cylindrical drill into a patient's ilium, the distal end of a hollow cylindrical drill comprising a flexible tubular member, with a hollow cylindrical drill bit mounted to the distal end of the flexible tubular member; and

rotating or oscillating the flexible tubular member about a longitudinal axis extending therethrough; and,

advancing the hollow cylindrical drill such that cut away tissue is deposited in the inner bore of the hollow cylindrical drill

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~~12~~ The method of claim ~~11~~ 8, wherein the hollow cylindrical drill is advanced such that the distal end of the cylindrical drill bit deflects off an inner boundary of the outer surface of the ilium, thereby cutting the cancellous bone while avoiding cutting cortical bone.

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~~13~~ The method of claim ~~11~~ 8, further comprising:

slidably inserting a tissue removal insert into the inner bores of the flexible tubular member and cylindrical drill bit;

anchoring the tissue removal insert into a mass of tissue protruding into the bore of the cylindrical drill bit;

tearing away the mass of tissue by rotating the tissue removal insert; and

removing the mass of tissue from within the bore of the cylindrical drill bit by slidably removing the tissue removal insert from the inner bore of the cylindrical drill bit.

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~~14~~ The method of claim ~~11~~ 8, further comprising:

tearing away a mass of tissue protruding into the bore of the cylindrical drill bit with a protrusion which faces inwardly from an inner wall of the cylindrical drill bit into the bore of the cylindrical drill bit.

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~~15~~ The method of claim ~~11~~ 8, further comprising:

tearing away a mass of tissue protruding into the bore of the cylindrical drill bit with a blade spanning across the bore of the drill bit.

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~~16.~~ The method of claim ⁸~~11~~, wherein the hollow cylindrical drill is inserted in a percutaneous cannulated approach.

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~~18.~~ A method of drilling bone, comprising:
providing a generally cylindrical drill bit having a beveled outer distal periphery;
inserting said generally cylindrical drill bit through an aperture formed in a patient's cortical bone; and
rotating said generally cylindrical drill bit such that, when advanced through said aperture, said drill bit deflects off an inner wall of said cortical bone and thereby avoids penetrating said cortical bone other than through said aperture.
